

TOCKWITH C. of E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

RE POLICY

Signed Chairman of Governors

Date.....

Religious Education is central to the churches understanding of education and mission.

‘The National Society Statement of Entitlement’ outlines the following aims for RE in a Church of England School.

- To enable pupils to encounter Christianity as the religion that shaped British culture and heritage and influences the lives of millions of people today
- To enable pupils to learn about the other major religions, their impact on culture and politics, art and history, and on the lives of their adherents
- To develop understanding of religious faith as the search for and expression of truth
- To contribute to the development of pupils’ own spiritual/philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own faith and beliefs

1. RE in our school

RE is central to the purpose of Tockwith C of E Primary School because, as a church school, we see that the Christian faith informs all aspects of our life together and commits us to a search for truth.

RE at Tockwith explores how individuals and communities make meaning and sense of their lives through the major religions of the world. It enables pupils to know about, understand and respond to the important and ultimate questions of life. RE is taught in such a way that it inspires pupils to explore, develop and affirm their own faith and values and have respect for the faith, beliefs and values of others.

It is not the practice of this school to preach to or seek to convert children. Values influenced education permeates the RE curriculum at Tockwith CE Primary School.

2. The aim of RE in our school

At Tockwith, RE supports and strengthens the vision, ethos and values which are at the heart of what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. The importance placed on the development of the whole child spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually is reflected in our RE curriculum

Specifically, RE aims to enable pupils of all abilities and stages of development to:

- Develop knowledge and understanding of Christian beliefs and practices so that they understand the importance of the Bible, the role of the church and recognise that for Christians, their faith provides a way of interpreting life and its meaning.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of the beliefs and practices of some of the other principal religions in our local community, Britain and overseas.

- Understand how belief may impact on culture, relationships, values and lifestyle.
- Understand how belief can be expressed in a variety of ways including art, dance, music, ritual celebration and in different cultural settings.
- Develop spiritually, morally, culturally and socially by helping them to reflect upon personal feelings, responses and relationships.
- Explore ways in which religious values and teaching have an impact on actions and decisions for people of faith
- Be supported in their own search for meaning and purpose in life.
- Develop a sense of awe, wonder and mystery.
- Explore concepts of love, forgiveness and sacrifice.
- Develop skills of reflection, empathy, communication, analysis, investigation, interpretation, evaluation and synthesis.
- Develop attitudes of respect, sensitivity, open-mindedness and self-esteem.

3. Our legal responsibilities

As a voluntary controlled C of E school, the North Yorkshire Agreed Syllabus for RE is our statutory document for the teaching of RE. However, we have decided to follow the Focus Challenge Curriculum believing that all aspects of the North Yorkshire Agreed Syllabus for RE are studied.

Assessment is based on North Yorkshire assessment documentation.

Parents have a legal right to withdraw their children from religious education lessons, but we would ask parents to discuss with the Head Teacher any reasons they might have for doing this. If parents do wish to remove their children from RE, alternative provision, based on our school and British values will be provided.

4. Learning and teaching

- The scheme of work for RE will maintain a balance between the two attainment targets: Learning about Religions and Learning from Religions.
- There will be clear learning outcomes for all units of work, based on the appropriate expectations/levels as set out in the RE syllabus (Focus Challenge Curriculum)
- The scheme of work will ensure that there is continuity and progression for pupils and opportunities for assessment in both attainment targets.
- A range of teaching and learning activities will ensure that pupils learn effectively and with interest.
- Pupil progress and attainment in RE will be tracked and recorded (monitored by the RE curriculum leader) and the school will keep evidence to support assessment data
- Progress in RE will be stated in pupils' report to parents.
- RE will be taught either as a discrete subject or as part of a cross curricular approach where appropriate.
- A range of visitors will be invited to support the teaching of RE, and where possible, there will be planned visits to places of worship.
- In this school the faiths taught in RE at KS1 are Christianity and Judaism and at KS2 Christianity, Judaism, Islam and Hinduism.

- RE will be given curriculum time as stated in the North Yorkshire Agreed Syllabus for RE. In addition, RE days, topics and events will feature throughout the school year.

5. RE across the curriculum

We believe that RE should have an impact on other curriculum areas, in particular to SMSC, the promotion of the school Christian values and the promotion of ‘British Values’

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development

SMSC prepares pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life’. Learning about and from religions and beliefs, through the distinct knowledge, understanding and skills contained in RE within a broad-based curriculum, is essential to achieving these aims. Exploring the concepts of religion and belief and their roles in the spiritual, moral and cultural lives of people in a diverse society helps individuals develop moral awareness and social understanding.

The school Christian values

RE should contribute to the promotion of the school’s distinctively Christian values. Making connections between the values and learning in RE will bring about greater understanding of the values and how they can be put into practice across a range of experiences.

Respect for All and Global Learning

RE makes an important contribution to a school’s responsibility to promote respect for all and global learning. It provides a key context to develop young people’s understanding and appreciation of diversity, to promote shared values and to challenge racism, discrimination and extremism.

The school community – RE provides a positive context within which the diversity of cultures, beliefs and values can be celebrated and explored.

The community within which the school is located – RE provides opportunities to investigate patterns of diversity of religion and belief and forge links with different groups in the local area in particular local churches.

The UK community – a major focus of RE is the study of diversity of religion and belief in the UK and how this influences national life.

The global community – RE involves the study of matters of global significance and recognises the diversity of religions and belief systems.

The promotion of ‘British Values’

RE provides opportunities to promote the ‘British Values’ of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect.)

6. Subject leadership

The RE subject leader will support and monitor the subject and will receive adequate time to do this. They will ensure that his/her subject knowledge and expertise are kept up to date by means of regular training. In addition, the subject leader will ensure that staff receive adequate training in the teaching and assessment of RE.

With the Head Teacher, the RE subject leader will regularly monitor the quality and impact of RE teaching across the school and will liaise with the governor who holds responsibility for RE. Both will report regularly to the governing body on progress and attainment in RE.

Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name;
make known among the nations what he has done.
Psalm 105

Mark Wharfedale 19.09.2016